

SEP-16-05

16:29

FROM-Merchant & Gould

6123329081

T-638 P.011/018 F-651

Application Serial No. 10/715,773
Preliminary Amendment dated September 16, 2005

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to cancel claims 2-12, 14-16, 19 and 27-29 and add new claims 30-43, as supported throughout the specification and at least at pages 5-6, 28, 35, 39 and Figure 3C. Additionally, new claims 30 and 37 incorporate limitations recited in original claims 27 and 19, respectively. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 13, 17, 18, 20-26 and 30-43 are pending.

The specification has also been amended to indicate the specific reference to the benefit of priority claim under 35 U.S.C. 120. In particular, the specification has been amended to identify each prior application by its application number and to specify the relationship between each of the applications, according to 37 CFR 1.78(a). Additionally, please find enclosed a copy of the Petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and the surcharge set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t) submitted on September 16, 2005, requesting acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 120. No new matter has been added.

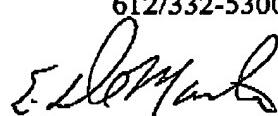
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants attorney-of record, Eric E. DeMaster (Reg. No. 55,107), at (612) 336.4621.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612/332-5300

Date: September 16, 2005



Eric E. DeMaster
Reg. No. 55,107
EED:smm